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LETTER DATED 23 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF RWANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda containing a clarification of the Rwandan Government's position on the current negotiations between the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda and its suppliers on the one hand and the Government on the other.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Manzi BAKURAMUTSA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Rwanda to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Letter dated 20 January 1996 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda presents its compliments to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) and takes this opportunity to refute the false information which is being spread within the United Nations Security Council to the effect that the Rwandan Government has issued an ultimatum to UNAMIR to halt all its activities in Rwanda if it did not pay all taxes and debts owed to Rwanda and/or third parties by 17 January 1996.

The Ministry deplores the spreading of such misinformation at a time when the parties concerned are still negotiating with a view to resolving all problems and disputes relating to conclusion of the mandate of the United Nations mission.

Furthermore, the Ministry would recall that the negotiations in progress, which began in October 1995, take the form of weekly meetings of which minutes are prepared and approved and countersigned by both parties.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation considers that any information disseminated outside this specific context is no more than unfounded rumour.

The Rwandan Government has no interest in preventing UNAMIR from terminating its mandate, which expires on 8 March 1996; rather, it is determined to pursue the negotiations now in progress with a view to finding appropriate solutions to all points of contention and disputes which are the subject of talks.

Kigali, 20 January 1996

Special Representative of the Secretary-General
of the United Nations in Rwanda